03 - 133

September 16, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

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Federal Communications Cummission Office of the Secretary

Dear Chairman Powell:

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I understand that the FCC is considering applying "in-state" access charges and other fees on certain prepaid calling card services. Many Hispanics, particularly those on fixed incomes or those establishing the credit history, bank accounts and other means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service, rely upon these prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, they could, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would certainly make these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

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Sincerely

s: /Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy

Commissioner Kevin Martin

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As a result, prepaid calling cards are the only option available – without them, they could, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing in-state charges would amount to a substantial increase in the cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to disadvantaged consumers. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would certainly make these services substantially less affordable. Please look out for consumers and refuse to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely

ccs:

Commissioner Michael Copps

Commissioner Kathleen Abernathv

Commissioner Kevin Martin

Chairman Michael Powell Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

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